

## Message Text

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53

ACTION CU-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 ISO-00 USIA-12 /024 W

----- 115083

P 231712Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2739

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC UR

SUBJ: EXCHANGES: CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS: JOFFREY BALLET

DEPT FOR CU/CP

REF: MOSCOW 12466; STATE 203478

1. PURSUIT OF MATTER OF THEATERS AND CITIES FOR JOFFREY TOUR WAS DERAILED BY MINCULT'S BUTROVA JUST BEFORE SHE LEFT ON MONTH'S LEAVE IN LATE AUGUST. EMBASSY HAS REOPENED DISCUSSION TO POINT OF THIRD MEETING SEPT. 23 OF P&C COUNSELOR WITH DYUZHEV (CHIEF OF MINCULT'S FOREIGN RELATIONS) AND GOSKONTSERT REP.

2. GOSK'S TENTATIVE SCHEDULE IS FOR LENINGRAD OPENING NOV. 20 FOR SEVEN PERFORMANCES; OPEN RIGA 27TH FOR 9 PERFORMANCES; MOSCOW DEC. 6 FOR 11 PERFORMANCES. FROM ALL REACTIONS WE JUDGE THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY OF UNSEATING KIROV FROM ITS THEATER DURING ITS SEASON. KIEV OPERA HOUSE IS SOMEWHAT LESS HALLOWED GROUND BUT GOSK AND MINISTRY'S OBJECTION THERE IS ADDITIONALLY; A) THEY WOULD HAVE TO PAY KIEV BALLET AND OPERA FOR LOST PERFORMANCES, B) INCLUSION OF FOURTH CITY WOULD COST THEM ADDITIONAL FORTH THOUSAND ROBULES IN TRANSPORTATION, AND C) TIME LOST IN TRANSPORT AND SEP-UP WOULD MEAN FURTHER REDUCTION FROM 27 PERFORMANCES. GOSK STATES IT IS NOW PROJECTING NEED FUR SUBSIDY OF 67 THOUSAND RUBLES FROM MINISTRY TO SUPPORT TOUR. THEIR FIGURES ASIDE, PRIMARY CAUSE OF THEIR DISMAY AND INFLEXIBILITY IS "25,000 KILOGRAMS" OF PROPERTIES WHICH  
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COMPANY BRINING. SUCH AN AMOUNT CAN ONLY GO BY TRUCK IN

THE USSR. IS THERE ANY POSSIBILITY THAT A CLOSER ESTIMATE  
CAN NOW REDUCE THIS TONNAGE?

3. ONE POSSIBILITY WHICH WOULD LIKE TO EXPLORE IS A REDUCED  
REPERTORY (AND PROPERTIES) DETOUR BY PLANE FROM  
RIGA TO ODESSA WHOSE EXCELLENT OPERA HOUSE IS BELIEVED TO BE  
AVAILABLE. THE NUMBER OF PERFORMANCES IN RIGA AND MOSCOW  
COULD JUSTIFIABLY BE CUT TO ACCOMMODATE A FOURTH CITY ALTHOUGH  
THE OVERALL TOTAL WOULD PROBABLY DROP ALSO TO ABOUT 24. WOULD  
JOFFREY COMPANY CONSIDER SUCH A REDUCED SIDE TRIP?

4. ADVISE.  
DUBS

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NNN

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